

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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August 6, 2001

The Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) is working to complete our mandated assessment of forest and range condition and trends. Vegetation data form the basis for many of the statistical tables, maps, analyses, and projections contained in the Assessment.

Our staff did an intensive evaluation of available data sources, and determined that to adequately address the range of issues covered in the Assessment, multiple sources must be merged to create a hybrid statewide vegetation layer. The methods, list of data sources used in this process, and vegetation data tables for the state and 58 counties are provided as an attachment. Additionally, vegetation maps can be viewed at the following website: [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/frap\\_veg.html](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/frap_veg.html)

FRAP requests your assistance to ensure that the vegetation data are the “best” possible given current data sources. We welcome any comments that you may have, especially in the following areas:

**Methodology**

- Is the method of merging disparate data sources sound? Is there a viable alternative method, for example a single statewide source that is adequate to address the range of issues contained in the Assessment?
- Based on your experience, did FRAP incorporate the “best available” data sources? Are there data sources that should have been included? Why? Are there sources we should not have included? Why?
- Are the FRAP decision rules for merging the various data sources appropriate?

**Results**

- What is your overall impression of the enclosed tables? Are the acreages a reasonable representation of what actually exists on the ground?
- Are there WHR types that are over or under represented in a given county/owner class? Are there types that are entirely absent where they are known to exist? Are there types present in areas where they should not exist? Are there any documented results that demonstrate the discrepancy?

To ensure that your comments are incorporated, we need them by the end of August. We appreciate your assistance in this important process. Please direct questions or comments to:

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Thank you in advance. We expect that the merged vegetation data will become an extremely useful data source. It will be posted to the web, with documentation that includes an assessment of appropriate use based in part on the results of this review process

Sincerely,



William Stewart  
Chief, Fire and Resource Assessment Program